



## THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

**EYE SURGERY**—H. B. Stallard, M.B.E., M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Hon. LL.D. (St. Andrews); Surgeon, The Moorfields Eye Hospital; Eye Surgeon, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Late Pathologist and Curator, The Moorfields Eye Hospital; Eye Surgeon, Radium Institute and Mount Vernon Hospital; Officer of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem; Major, R.A.M.C. (T.A.). Third Edition, Revised, 899 pages, with 671 illustrations, 1958. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland, \$18.00.

This book like previous editions is well written and covers present-day accepted surgical procedures.

The chapter on anesthesia, local and general, has been revised clearly explaining present day techniques.

The plastic surgery discussion is thorough and indicated long years of experience.

In his chapter on glaucoma he discusses cyclodiathermy and cycloelectrolysis in addition to the accepted surgical procedures.

The chapter on corneal surgery is well written and easily understood.

The chapter on retinal and choroid diagnosis and treatment includes all the newer methods as well as the older well-tried procedures. Included in this chapter is the use of surgery of the vitreous.

The book has been written by a man with a wealth of surgical experience who has supplied to the reader the procedures that have stood the test of time.

ALFRED R. ROBBINS, M.D.

\* \* \*

**LONG-TERM ILLNESS**—Management of the Chronically Ill Patient—Edited by Michael G. Wohl, M.D., F.A.C.P., former Clinical Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology), Philadelphia General Hospital and Temple University School of Medicine; Chief of Nutrition Clinic, Philadelphia General Hospital; Consultant Physician in Medicine, Albert Einstein Medical Center; Attending Physician, Home for the Jewish Aged. With the Collaboration of: Seventy-nine Contributing Authorities. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1959. 748 pages, \$17.00.

**CARE OF THE GERIATRIC PATIENT, THE**—E. V. Cowdry, Ph.D., Sc.D. (Hon.); Director of Wernse Cancer Research Laboratory, Washington University School of Medicine; formerly President of the Gerontological Society and of the Second International Gerontological Congress; Chairman of the Medical and Scientific Committee, American Society for the Aged, Inc. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1958. 438 pages, \$8.00.

The measure of current interest in any given area of medicine is reflected in the number of books published on the subject. Thus, the increasing number of old people in the United States and the consequent increasing importance of diseases of older people—and of chronic disease—have begun to bring forth a spate of medical literature. Two of the better recent books in the field are reviewed below: Long-Term Illness and The Care of the Geriatric Patient.

The treatment of chronic illness is developing rapidly along two main courses. The first is along the line of tradi-

tional medical therapy. The second is the particular outgrowth of rehabilitation principles evolved during and since World War II. These books demonstrate and include this dichotomy, but leave the reader to differentiate for himself.

The Care of the Geriatric Patient is a comprehensive series of monographs, addressed primarily to the physician, on the practical care of geriatric patients. It accentuates the emotional, mental and physical differences between old people and those of fewer years.

In this monographic type presentation, each author offers his own viewpoint on a given subject—without regard for the other contributors. Consequently, there is a certain amount of overlapping and duplication: For example, in Chapter 3 on Medical Aspects of Geriatric Care and Chapter 16 on Rehabilitation of the Geriatric Patient; and in Chapter 4 on Mental Aspects of Geriatric Care and Chapter 11 on Geriatric Nursing. There is also, at times, a conflict of opinions, due to the wide variance in background and experience of the various authors, and this is apt to be confusing to the reader.

Despite these criticisms, the physician will find this a valuable volume of information on the care of older people. It gives good insight on what can be—and is being—done for geriatric patients. Doctors probably will find most appealing Chapters 3 to 7 which discuss the medical, mental and surgical aspects of geriatric care. (In Chapter 3, Paul Starr has compressed an entire text into 44 pages; this is particularly recommended reading!)

The use of the title Long-Term Illness mirrors the changing outlook in the management of chronic disease. Although today's doctor realizes the prolonged nature of the condition with which he is dealing, he need no longer look upon that condition simply as an irreversible pathologic process that leaves the patient completely disabled. Although he may not be able to cure most chronically ill patients, he may be able to do a great deal for them. Indeed, some chronic diseases, such as diabetes and pernicious anemia, may in certain cases become a matter of education as much as treatment. And many other chronically ill patients, for whom the outlook was formerly considered hopeless, have been able to achieve a high level of self care.

Doctor Wohl has gathered together a large number of contributors to present as many aspects of long-term illness as possible. Brought into a single volume for the benefit of the practicing physician interested in treatment of the chronically ill, this tends to break down some of the barriers of specialization existing today. For example, the doctor has in one book, considerations of prostatism or of urolithiasis by a urologist, of deafness by an otologist or of chronic diseases in children by a pediatrician. (We can anticipate that the complexities and details as discussed in the treatment of these multifarious conditions will probably create a new group of "specialists in chronic disease!")

Long-Term Illness is divided into two sections. The first 90 pages deal with general principles. The first portion of